

HIS ROYALTY NOT PROCLAIMED.

Bernhardt Didn't Know Brother-in-Law of Prince of Wales.

King George of Greece has been a guest of King Edward at Windsor recently while some theatricals were being given. The visit recalls an occasion years ago when the two went to see Bernhardt. Edward was then prince of Wales and he introduced King George as "my brother-in-law." The tragedienne conversed freely with the prince, but paid little or no attention to the other royalty until the former asked her how she liked the king. "What king?" she asked. On learning the distinguished caller's identity she said to the prince: "Your royal highness was cruel not to tell me that it was the king of Greece." "But I told you it was my brother-in-law," replied the prince. "Your brother-in-law? But how was I to know?" she said. "He might have been a merchant."

Surplusage.

Owen Wister, the novelist, was criticising the work of a literary beginner.

"Now, here," said Mr. Wister, slashing his blue pencil through an entire manuscript page, "here is arrant superfluity and surplusage. In what way do these 400 words help your story?"

"In no way. On the contrary, they hinder, they impede it. These written words are mere surplusage, as so many of our spoken words are mere surplusage. They resemble the useless questions that we ask."

"A man stood before a mirror in his room, his face lathered, and an open razor in his hand."

"His wife came in. She looked at him and said:

"Are you shaving?"

"The man, a foe to surplusage, replied fiercely:

"No; I am blacking the kitchen range. Where are you—out driving or at a matinee?"

Magic Mirrors.

Magic mirrors are the latest fashionable curio; though they are by no means a novelty, having been known for many years. The mirror is a slightly concave disk of bronze, highly polished and silvered. The mirror shows no peculiarity until held so that the sunlight is reflected from it upon the wall or other dark object, when the design stamped upon its back appears upon the wall in bright lines.

The design is not apparently upon the surface of the mirror, but the stamping slightly flattens the surface of the reflector, and when held in the strong sunlight these flat lines directly reflect their light upon the wall, while that reflected from the concave portions is dispersed.

Arrangements are now being made to have portraits and coats of arms stamped to order, and this, it is expected, will still further increase the demand.

Rebuked For Her Ignorance.

A kindergarten teacher took for her object lesson one morning a family pet, the cat. She began thus: "Now, who can tell me what the kitten has, feathers or fur?" For some time there was silence, but finally a tiny boy from the rear said in a slow, loud voice: "G-o-o-d L-a-w-d, hain't you never seen a kitten?"

PRESIDENT LAVISH WITH GIFTS.

Head of French Republic Carried Rich Presents to Spain.

President Loubet on his visit to Spain made presents to an almost oriental extent. Not a member of the Spanish royal family, from the queen mother to the youngest infant in arms, and not a person of any standing at court was forgotten. There was even a costly present for the municipality of Madrid. This last and that to the queen mother were superb. For her majesty the president brought a table service of the choicest Sevres, including forty-eight figures representing the different dances. This service resembles one which adorns the table of the Elysee on rare state occasions of the first magnitude. The gift to the municipality is a colossal Sevres vase of perfect workmanship. It stands fifty-eight inches high and is ornamented at the sides with highly effective bronze work.

Lighthouse as Bird Trap.

The night watch of the Cape May lighthouse was chatting with a visitor when something struck hard against the netting around the light. The watch went out upon the tiny circular balcony and returned with a dead bird in his hand. "A mud hen," said he. "Sometimes we get five or six in a night. Often we find robins and ducks dead on the balcony."

"It's a fine life you lead here," remarked the visitor.

"Yes; if it wasn't for the oil—the six gallons of oil that the light burns nightly. The government won't give us any machinery to hoist it up with. Consequently every day I must carry the whole six gallons up these 217 steps. That's hard on the heart."

"It must be," agreed the visitor. "It would be so easy to rig up a rope and pulley, too, and draw the oil up that way."

"It ain't allowed," said the watch. "In every oil-burning lighthouse the attendants must carry up the oil by hand. It does seem—"

Plop!

He slipped out to get another mud hen.

Two Famous Russian Writers.

A significant parallel may be drawn between the work of two peasant writers recently brought into prominence—Maxim Gorky and Peter Rosegger. Both are children of ignorant parents, to whom education was a self-accomplished task and literary genius an inherent quality rather than a developed faculty. Gorky was a child of the slums, Rosegger a son of the soil. Gorky revels in pictures of slum life and human viciousness. Rosegger's inspiration leads him along heights of ideality and religious mysticism.

Ancient Work on Dentistry.

One of the first printed books on dentistry was published about the middle of the sixteenth century in Spain and is especially interesting because it printed illustrations of probably all the dental instruments then in use.

First to See Mikado's Face.

Admiral Lord Charles Beresford claims the distinction of being the first European who was allowed, by invitation, to gaze on the face of the Mikado of Japan. This was in 1868.

Able to Hold Their Own.

In general the United States have found their great diplomats ready made. They have begun at the top and, with the marked exception of John Quincy Adams, who was trained in diplomacy from his boyhood, have had little or none of that preliminary training which Europe has deemed essential. Their school has been that of American law, politics and affairs, and, taken as a whole, they have more than held their own with their old country opponents. This was most conspicuously the case in the days when American diplomacy was more truly a career open to talent than at present, which a large private fortune has come to be regarded as a condition precedent to appointment to the most important diplomatic posts.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Thick Bark Preserves Sequoias.

California's giant trees, the sequoias, thousands of years old, have been preserved to this day because of their enormously thick bark. From time to time, in the course of ages, forest fires have swept through the big-tree lands, destroying everything, yet only scorching for a couple of inches' depth or so the almost fire-proof bark. The flames having carbonized that much of the bark, could not penetrate farther, for the carbonized portion formed an absolutely fireproof covering for the remainder of the interior bark.

To Succeed Baron Rothschild.

The electors of the Jewish Consistory of Bordeaux have been summoned to return a representative to the Central Consistory, in place of the late Baron Alphonse de Rothschild. It is expected that he will be succeeded by his son, Baron Edouard.

Time to Protect the Farmer.

A farmer in Riverton, Conn., ran to his house to save his life when a buck deer attacked him in his field, and the animal followed him to the door. The farmer then said he thinks it is time for the repeal of the law which protects deer and makes the farmers run away from their own land. He stayed in the house and watched the deer devour his crops, and did not feel in the mood that makes a man want to go to prayer meeting. But this country must have its sport, and farmers should not be afraid of deer.—Worcester Telegram.

Remembers Seeing Great Author.

Here is a little picture of the poet Southey from a recent volume, "Mrs. Brookfield and Her Circle": "I was one day bowling my hoop up and down the royal crescent when Landor appeared walking with his friend Southey. Southey was in an old-fashioned spencer, his hair tied behind in cue style with a black ribbon. I remember quite well his eagle eye and aquiline nose and the excitement of meeting the author of 'The Curse of Kehama' in real life."

"Adam Bede."

On completing "Adam Bede" in 1858, George Eliot—her real name was Mary Ann Evans—wrote: "I love it very much, and am deeply thankful to have written it." When she had written the work, which was suggested by her father, the publisher—Blackwood—first offered £800 for four years' copyright. Its great success—16,000 copies were sold in one year—was acknowledged by the publisher with an additional £400, and some time later with a similar amount.

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